REMARKS:

Claims 1, 3-6, 10, and 12-15 have been revised solely to improve the form thereof. Such revisions are not necessitated by prior art.

The requirement for election of species among the following patentably distinct inventions:

I. Species I: Figure 1

II. Species II: Figure 2

III. Species III: Figure 3

IV. Species IV: Figure 4

V. Species V: Figure 5

is respectfully traversed. Claims 1 and 10 are generic to each of the above identified species and are considered to be patentable over the prior art. Thus, applicant is entitled to an examination of all of these species. It is also noted that claims 2, 3, 11, and 12 are subgeneric in that they read on each of Species I, II, III, and IV.

Applicant provisionally elects Species III, i.e., an invention represented by Figure 3. Claims 1-3, 5, 10-12 and 14 read on the elected species.

CONCLUSION:

Wherefore, in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application is considered to be in condition for allowance, and an early reconsideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

This Amendment does not increase the number of independent claims, does not increase the total number of claims, and does not present any multiple dependency claims. Accordingly, no fee based on the number or type of claims is currently due. However, if a fee, other than the issue fee, is due, please charge this fee to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood's Deposit Account No. 18-1260.

Serial No. 09/421,575

If an extension of time is required to enable this document to be timely filed and there is no separate Petition for Extension of Time filed herewith, this document is to be construed as also constituting a Petition for Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) for a period of time sufficient to enable this document to be timely filed.

Any other fee required for such Petition for Extension of Time and any other fee required by this document pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17, other than the issue fee, and not submitted herewith should be charged to Sidley Austin Brown & Wood's Deposit Account No. 18-1260. Any refund should be credited to the same account.

Respectfully submitted,

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